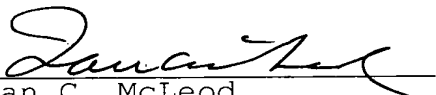


Attorney Docket No. MSU 4.1-553  
Appl. No. 09/917,147  
Amdt. Dated: March 28, 2006  
Response to Office Action of 03/02/2006

REMARKS

In reference to the Office Action mailed March 2, 2006, enclosed is a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 by Dr. Pinnavaia, one of the inventors. The Declaration establishes that the alumina claimed in the above referenced application is quite different than that described by Stamires et al, a new reference. The claimed alumina would not be obvious to one skilled in the art from this reference since the reference would not produce the claimed alumina. Reconsideration of the rejection over this reference is requested.

Respectfully,

  
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Enclosure: Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132

**Figure captions:**



Fig. 1A. XRD pattern of Catapal A® collected using wide angle slits configuration.

Fig. 1B. Extended XRD pattern of Catapal A® in the region of 0 –10 (two theta) degrees collected by using wide angle scanning slits.

Fig. 1C. Extended XRD diagrams of Catapal A® collected by using normal scanning slits and small-angle scanning slits, respectively.

Fig. 2A and B. XRD patterns of the quasi-crystalline boehmite prepared by the procedure taught in the Comparative Example 2. The slit widths are indicated for each pattern.

Fig. 3 A and B. XRD patterns of the quasi-crystalline boehmite prepared by following the procedure taught in the Example 3 of Stamires' patent. The slit widths are indicated for each pattern.

Fig. 4A and B. XRD patterns of the quasi-crystalline boehmite prepared by the procedure taught in the Example 4 of Stamires' patent. The slit widths are indicated for each pattern.